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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of) Examiner: Paras, Peter
Baulcombe, et al.)
Serial No.: 09/491,549) Group Art Unit: 1632
Filed: January 26, 2000) Response to paper No. 20
For: "Gene Silencing")

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AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R.

§1.116

In response to the Official Action dated August 28, 2002,
please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, line 2 with the
following paragraph:

C4

The present application claims priority under 35 U.S.C.
§119(a-d) to GB application number 9925459.1, filed October
27, 1999.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 17 as follows:

C1

1. (Twice amended) A method of detecting the silencing of a
target gene in a plant, which method comprises the steps of:
 - (i) obtaining a sample of material from said plant,
 - (ii) producing a nucleic acid extract from said sample,
 - (iii) analyzing said extract such as to determine the
presence or absence of short RNA molecules which are 21-25
nucleotides in length (SRMs) in said extract,